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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®



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While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter gained the arachnid's powers... and in effect, became a human spider.

STAN LEE PRESENTS THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

THIS IS HOW SATURDAY BEGINS...
WITH A SCREECH OF RADIAL TIRES,
AND THE SOFT THUD OF FLESH
HITTING THE PAVEMENT.

FOR PETER PARKER
-- GRADUATE STUDENT,
TEACHING ASSISTANT,
AND PART-TIME
PHOTOGRAPHER -- IT'S
THE BEGINNING OF A
DAY HE'LL NOT SOON
FORGET!

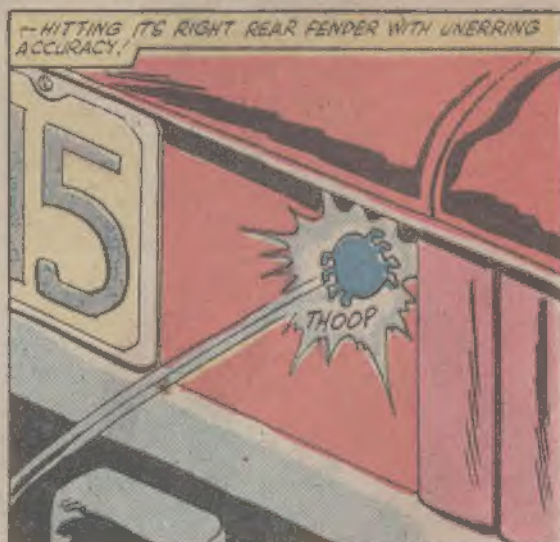
GOOD LORD!
IT'S THE WHITE
TIGER! AND HE
LOOKS... DEAD!

THIS
IS
THE
FIRST

THE DAY OF THE HERO KILLERS!

ROGER ETERN / RICK LEONARD / JIM MOONEY / JIM NOVAK / BEN SEAN / DENNY O'NEIL / JIM SHOOTER
WRITER / PENCILER / INKER / LETTERER / COLORIST / EDITOR / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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*THE WHITE TIGER'S SECRET IDENTITY, HECTOR AYALA, WAS REVEALED ON LOCAL TV IN ISSUE #50.--DI NINNY.

SUDDENLY, FROM THE REAR OF THE CROWD, COMES A FAMILIAR, BLUSTERY VOICE...

WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOING ON HERE?

A DUDE'S BEEN SHOT, MAN.

RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE BUGLE? WHERE'S THAT PARKER WHEN YOU NEED HIM?

I'M... RIGHT HERE, JONAH.

WHAT?! LET ME THROUGH! C'MON, ROBBIE! THIS IS NEWS!

EASY, JONAH, DON'T JOSTLE THE READER-SHIP!

WHO AM I? I'M J. JONAH JAMESON, THAT'S WHO. I PUBLISH THE DAILY BUGLE!

OH, YEAH? IN THAT CASE, YA GOT MY SYMPATHY!

RAM! EVERYONE'S A SIDEWALK CRITIC! PARKER! DID YOU GET ANY...

...PICTURES? JONAH, IF YOU WANT TO RUN PICTURES OF THIS YOU CAN FIND YOURSELF ANOTHER CITY EDITOR!

OH... MY... LORD.

NO, WE'D NEVER... THAT IS, I HAD NO IDEA --!

H-HE'S DYING, JONAH!

I KNOW HIM... I KNOW HECTOR AYALA, AND HE'S DYING, AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.

NOT ONE BLASTED THING!

WEEEOOO

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, SON. IT'S ROUGH... I KNOW.

I'VE BEEN IN THE NEWSPAPER BUSINESS A LONG TIME, AND I'VE SEEN A LOT OF ROUGH STUFF... MOST OF IT SENSELESS.

HIS HEARTBEAT'S REAL WEAK, AND HE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD! RADIO EMERGENCY TO BE READY AND GET ME AN I-V!



TAKE IT EASY WITH HIM, EDDIE!
WITH THE SHAPE HE'S IN...

YEAH, I KNOW
WHAT YA MEAN.
I HOPE THE
TRAFFIC'S
LIGHT, OTHER-
WISE, THIS
GUY MIGHT
NOT MAKE IT!

HEY, WAIT! I'M COMING
WITH YOU!

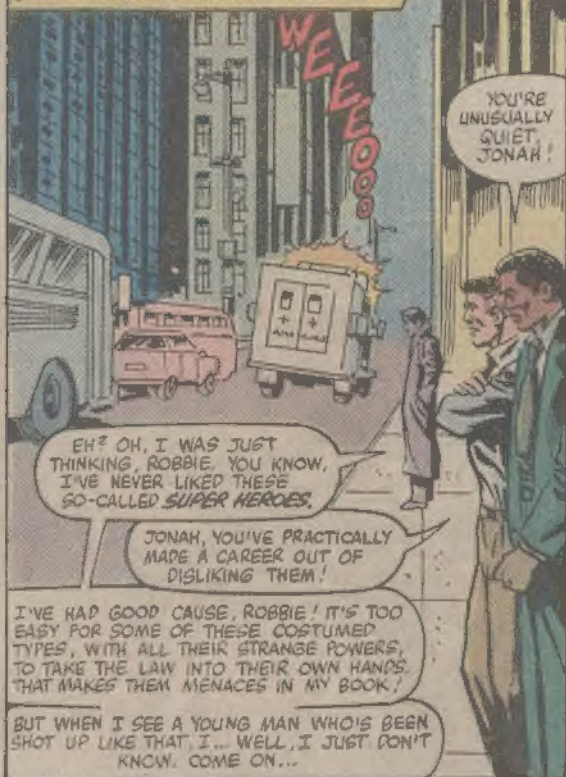


HUH? HEY WE
CAN'T--!

LOOK, THIS IS STRAIGHT!
WE WENT TO COLLEGE
TOGETHER... AT E.S.U.
AND BESIDES, I'M A
WITNESS!

WELL...
OKAY.
HOP IN.

WITHIN SECONDS, THE AMBULANCE STREAKS OFF THROUGH
THE MAN-MADE CANYONS OF NEW YORK CITY, LEAVING
BEHIND A RAPIDLY DISPERSED CROWD...



YOU'RE
UNUSUALLY
QUIET,
JONAH!

EH? OH, I WAS JUST
THINKING, ROBBIE. YOU KNOW,
I'VE NEVER LIKED THESE
SO-CALLED SUPER HEROES.

JONAH, YOU'VE PRACTICALLY
MADE A CAREER OUT OF
DISLIKING THEM!

I'VE HAD GOOD CAUSE, ROBBIE! IT'S TOO
EASY FOR SOME OF THESE COSTUMED
TYPES, WITH ALL THEIR STRANGE POWERS,
TO TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS.
THAT MAKES THEM MENACES IN MY BOOK!

BUT WHEN I SEE A YOUNG MAN WHO'S BEEN
SHOT UP LIKE THAT, I... WELL, I JUST DON'T
KNOW. COME ON...



...WE'VE GOT A
PAPER TO GET
OUT

JOE ROBERTSON
MERELY NODS,
REALIZING THAT HIS
BOSS HAS JUST
COME VERY CLOSE TO
ADMITTING THAT HE
COULD BE WRONG...

...AND KNOWING,
SADLY, THAT IT IS
PROBABLY AS
CLOSE AS JONAH
WILL EVER GET.

MEANWHILE, IN THE SPEEDING AMBU-
LANCE...

I'VE LOST SO MANY FRIENDS, SO MANY LOVED ONES TO MURDERERS... UNCLE BEN... CAPTAIN STACY... GWEN. I PRAY I'M NOT ABOUT TO LOSE ANOTHER.

WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS TO THE TIGER? AND WHAT DID THE NOTE, PINNED TO HIS CHEST, MEAN... "THIS IS THE FIRST." WHO'S NEXT?

ZUNGHKE

HECTOR! IT'S ME, PETER PARKER! TAKE IT EASY, AMIGO, WE'RE TAKING YOU TO THE HOSPITAL!

PETER?

YES, YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT, MAN! HANG IN THERE!

HECTOR, WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

L-LONG STORY. TWO NIGHTS AGO...

"...I CAME HOME... AND FOUND MY FAMILY MURDERED. DEAD... ALL DEAD."

"I USED THE POWER OF... MY AMULETS... TO BECOME THE WHITE TIGER... TO TRACK DOWN THE KILLERS. LAST NIGHT... I FOUND THEM--"

"...JUST LIKE THEY WANTED ME TO, IT WAS ALL A TRAP... PART OF A MASTER-PLAN TO KILL ME. I... FOUGHT MY WAY THROUGH A SMALL ARMY BEFORE ITS LEADER, GIDEON MACE, GUNNED ME DOWN. HE'S...

HECTOR!

... CRAZY, WANTS TO KILL ALL THE HEROES... I WAS... JUST... FIRST!

THE REMAINING SECONDS ARE SPENT IN STONY SILENCE, AS THE AMBULANCE BARRELS ITS WAY TOWARDS THIS ISLAND OF MERCY.

ANCE

ELLEVUE

EMERGENCY

AND THEN...

GET HIM INTO PRE-OP, ON THE DOUBLE!

EMERGENCY

YOU HEARD THE MAN, LET'S MOVE!

THE EMERGENCY ROOM OF BELLEVUE HOSPITAL IS NO STRANGER TO GUNSHOT VICTIMS, BUT RARELY HAS IT RECEIVED ONE IN THIS CONDITION WHO WAS STILL ALIVE!

IT WAS A LIGHT BROWN SEDAN, OFFICER, I DIDN'T GET THE LICENSE NUMBER, BUT THEY WERE OUT OF STATE PLATES... THE LAST NUMBER WAS FIVE!

MMMM... PROBABLY STOLEN, ANYWAY!

PREP THIS MAN AS FAST AS YOU CAN...AND PUT THIS NECKLACE WITH HIS EFFECTS!

HOLD IT!

YOU TAKE THOSE TRINKETS OFF'A THE TIGER, AN' YOU'LL BE SIGNIN' HIS DEATH WARRANT!

WHAT? WHO--?

IT'S BLACKBYRD! I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN MONTHS!

NOT SINCE ISSUE #10, TO BE EXACT-- DENNY.



THE NAME'S BYRD... NATHANIAL ALEXANDER BYRD. I'M A PRIVATE DETECTIVE, AN' THE TIGER'S A FRIEND OF MINE.

HE GETS HIS POWERS FROM THOSE CHUNKS OF JADE SOMEHOW, AND WITH-OUT 'EM, HE GETS SICK...JUST LIKE A JUNKIE GOIN' COLD TURKEY.

THE SHAPE HE'S IN NOW, I DON'T THINK HE'D LIVE THROUGH SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT!

THE STARTLED DOCTOR TAKES A STEP BACK, AND LETS THE JAWSETS LIE.

WELL, NOTHING MORE I CAN DO HERE. WE CAN ONLY PUT OUT AN A.P.B. ON THE CAR AND HOPE FOR THE BEST.

PARDON ME, MR. BYRD, BUT I'M PETER PARKER, AND--

THAT'S A NICE CAMERA, BRO! YOU WITH THE PAPERS?

YES, I WORK FOR THE BUGLE AND...



WELL, I'VE GOT ONE BASIC RULE...I DON'T TALK TO THE PRESS.

B-BUT--!

SORRY. I DON'T MAKE EXCEPTIONS!

BOY, THAT WAS STUPID! I DON'T KNOW WHY I THOUGHT BYRD WOULD BE COOPERATIVE WITH PETER PARKER.

I HAD A HARD ENOUGH TIME GETTING INFO OUT OF HIM AS SPIDER-MAN!



MIN ISSUE #9--D.

HOWEVER...



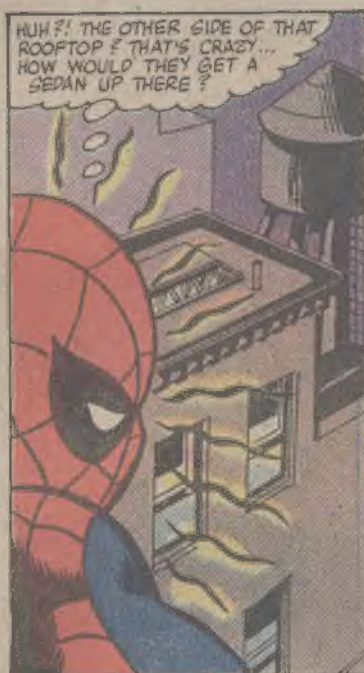
... BLACKBYRD DID FINALLY HIT IT OFF WITH SPIDER-MAN! SO--

--IF HARLEM'S ANSWER TO KOTAK WON'T TALK TO PETER PARKER, THEN I'LL JUST BECOME SOMEONE WHO HE WILL TALK TO!

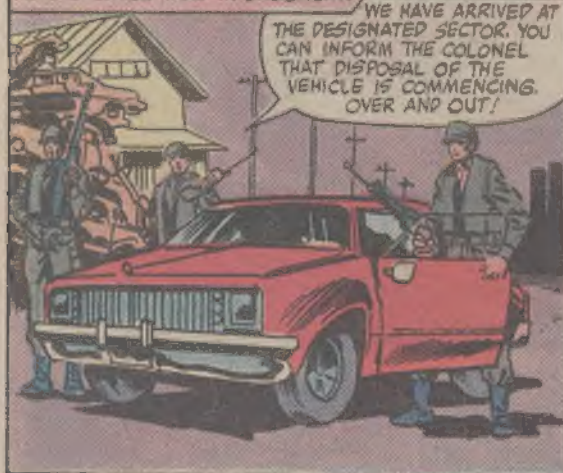
AT LEAST, I HOPE HE WILL. I'D HATE TO THINK THAT I'M CHANGING CLOTHES FOR NOTHING!







BUT, AS NIGHT FALLS OVER THE CITY, THE ELECTRONIC TRAIL WHICH SPIDER-MAN SO DESPERATELY SEARCHES FOR IS ABOUT TO COME TO AN ABRUPT END... AT THIS AUTO-SALVAGE YARD IN BROOKLYN.

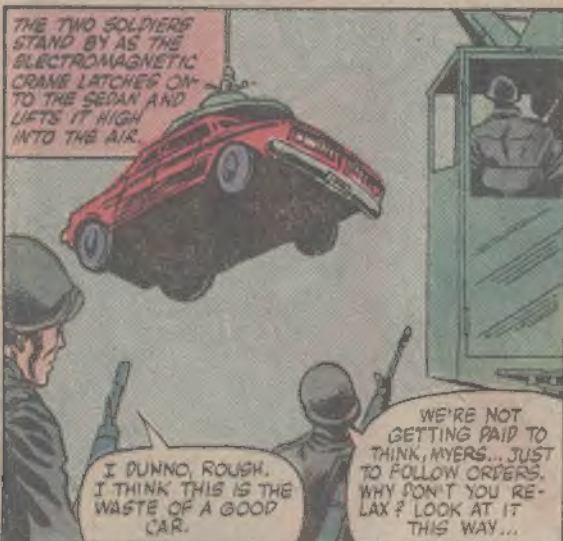


WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THE DESIGNATED SECTOR. YOU CAN INFORM THE COLONEL THAT DISPOSAL OF THE VEHICLE IS COMMENCING. OVER AND OUT!



YOU TWO STAND GUARD. I'LL HANDLE THE CRANE MYSELF.

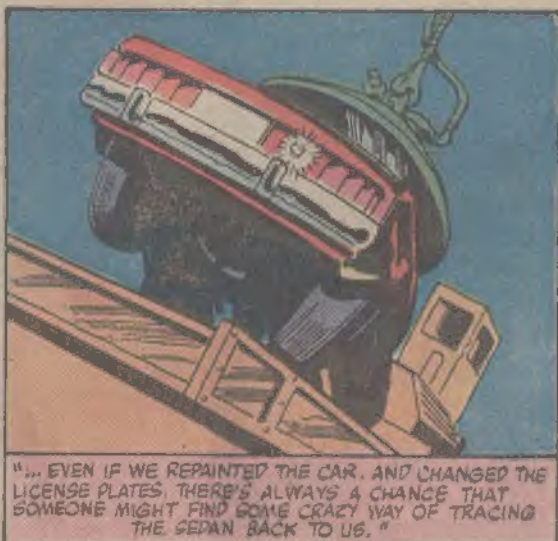
WHATEVER YOU SAY, LIEUTENANT.



THE TWO SOLDIERS STAND BY AS THE ELECTROMAGNETIC CRANE LATCHES ON TO THE SEDAN AND LIFTS IT HIGH INTO THE AIR.

I DUNNO, ROUGH. I THINK THIS IS THE WASTE OF A GOOD CAR.

WE'RE NOT GETTING PAID TO THINK, MYERS... JUST TO FOLLOW ORDERS. WHY DON'T YOU RELAX? LOOK AT IT THIS WAY...



"... EVEN IF WE REPAINTED THE CAR, AND CHANGED THE LICENSE PLATES, THERE'S ALWAYS A CHANCE THAT SOMEONE MIGHT FIND SOME CRAZY WAY OF TRACING THE SEDAN BACK TO US."



BUT THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY ANYONE CAN TRACE A CUBE OF SCRAP METAL!

YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT I STILL SAY THE COLONEL'S SEEN **GOLDFINGER** ONE TOO MANY TIMES!



THEN, SUDDENLY...

HUH? WHAT THE DEVIL IS THAT?!

THE SPIDER-SIGNAL! IT'S SPIDER-MAN-- HE'S ON TO US!

HE MUST BE UP THERE
SHOOT! SHOOT TO KILL!

"HOOT TO KILL MUM? WELL
 IF YOU BOYS, BEST ON
 PLAYING YOUR EX THEN
 HOPE YOU DON'T MIND I
 GO IN FOR A LITTLE
 FLANKING MANEUVRE!"

"I'M
 THIS
 THE
 SPIRIT"

WHAT? STILL
STANDING? THOSE
GUY HELMETS MUST
BE PRETTY LIGHT
TO EAT THEY
DON'T COVER
THE JAW

I'M GLAD I FOUND
THIS PLACE BEFORE
THEY PULPED MY
SPIDER-TRACER IN
THAT
COMPACTOR

AND EVEN
GLADDER THAT I
HAD THE FORCE-
GHT TO DETACH
MY SPIDER - SNAIL
LIGHT FROM MY
BELT AND MERG
IT UP THERE IN
THAT PILE OF
TUNNERS

POOR GUY
NO FUN AT
ALL

NO FUN AT



DR. FODAL
SAEN TO BASE
WE ARE IN
ATTACK
WE ARE UNDER
ATTACK

WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE SHOCK AT
I RELUCTANTLY WITH POWER MAN--
HIS OWN RESISTS REGULAR ARMS
FIRE BUT I WANT HIM DEAD AND
SOON. I HAVE A PERSONAL
INTEREST IN KILLING HIM

AND IN ADDITION
BOTH THE MAGGIA
AND THE HALWAN
FREEDOM FRONT
HAVE AGREED IN
AN EFFORT
TOWARDS THE
REUSE

- WE
ARE
GOING
TO
KILL
THE
CREW

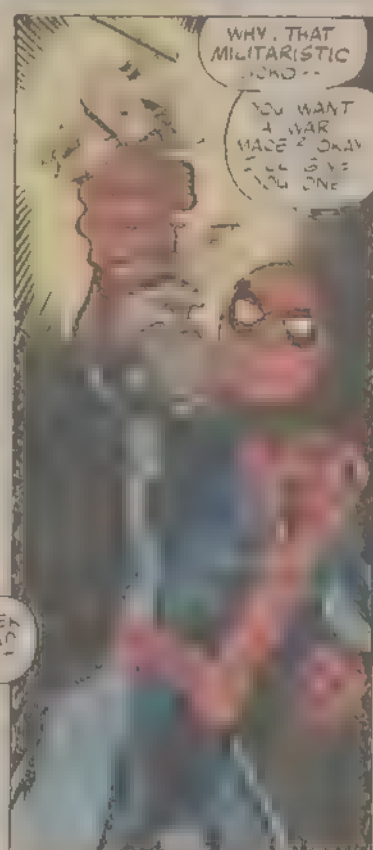
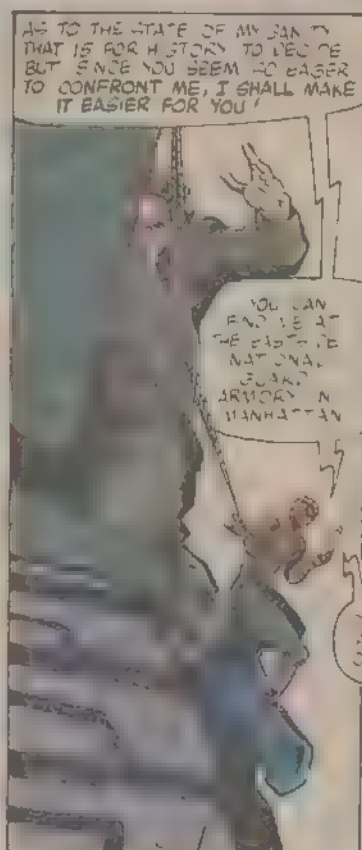
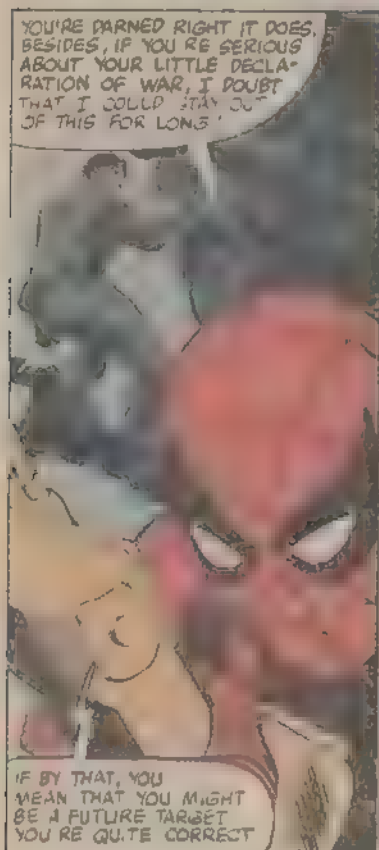
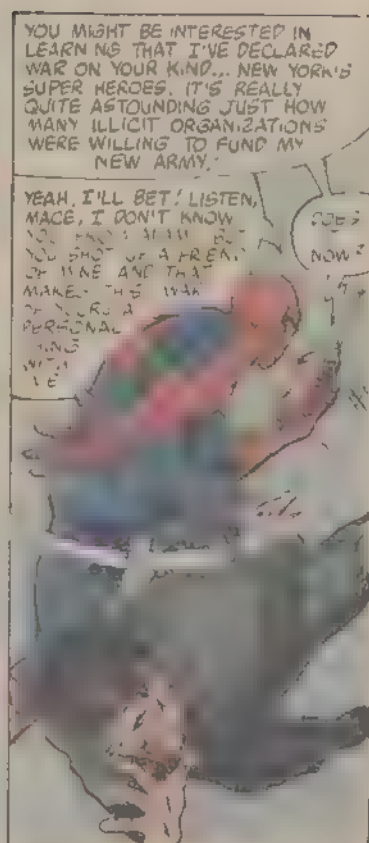
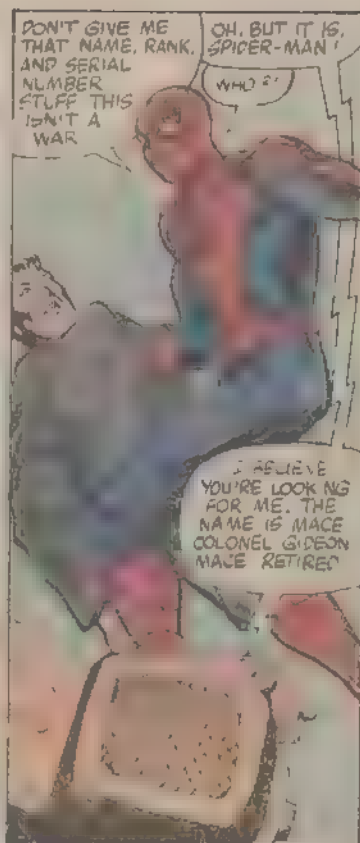
FOUND
AT THE
THE
WANT TO ME

AND IN ADDITION
BOTH THE MAGGILL
AND THE HALWANI
FREEDOM FRONT
HAVE VOTED IN
TO EXERCISE
THEIR
POWER

FIND
AT THE HIGH
THE L... AND W
L... R...
L... V...
WANT TO ME IN
H...

ALOO
SMACK
OWEE!

WFF:



MEANWHILE, BACK AT MACE'S HEADQUARTERS...

UH, SIR? ARE YOU SURE IT WAS WISE TO GIVE AWAY OUR LOCATION? SUPPOSE HE GOES TO THE AUTHORITIES?

NOT SPIDER-MAN THAT'S NOT HIS STYLE I HAD A PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE RUN ON HIM... HE'S A LONER BY NATURE

BESIDES THIS IS JUST THE SORT OF CHALLENGE THE MEN NEED

RED ALERT WE ARE UNDER EMERGENCY BATTLE CONDITIONS OPERATIONS BAKER THROUGH FOX ARE SCRAPPED WE CAN EXPECT AN ATTACK BY SPIDER-MAN WITHIN THE NEXT 5 TO 30 MINUTES REPEAT. RED ALERT

SERGEANT...

-- READY THE SMALL-FIELD ARTILLERY AND ACTIVATE THE MINES WE PLANTED IN THE SURROUNDING STREETS

I'M AFRAID WE WON'T HAVE TIME TO EVACUATE THE CIVILIANS FROM THE AREA. UNFORTUNATE... BUT THEN, WAR IS HELL!

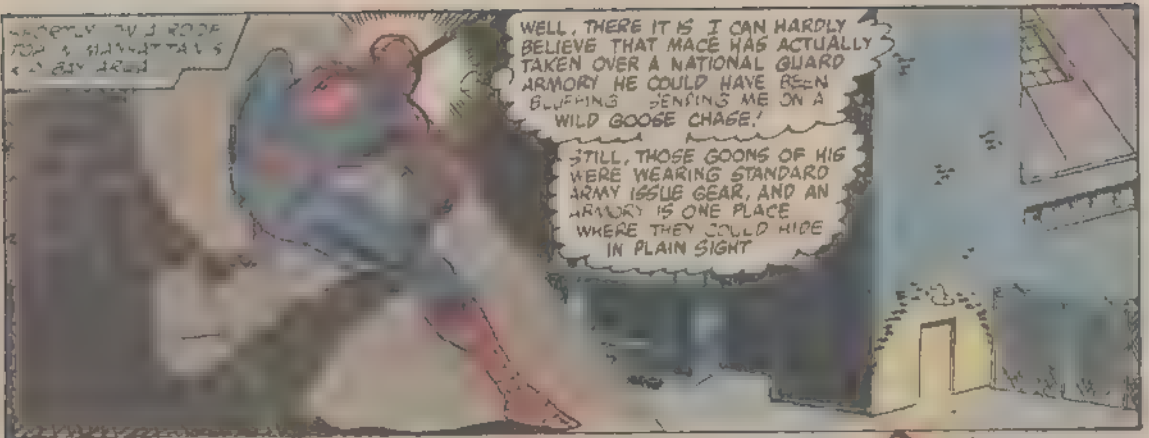
AT THAT MOMENT A BELLEVED EMERGENCY...

THAT'S THE SEVENTH BULLET I'VE REMOVED AND I SEE ANOTHER VERY CLOSE TO A MAJOR ARTERY

I CAN BELIEVE THE MAN IS STILL ALIVE

IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE WAS DRAWING THE POWER TO LIVE FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD

AND AS THE SURGEON RETURNED TO WORK THE THREE TAPE MACHINES ON THE TOP OF THE WEST GYM SEEMED TO STRIKE BY GLOW



WHENLY TV & RADIO
TOP & HAWKETTALS
& A BLY ARRE

WELL, THERE IT IS I CAN HARDLY
BELIEVE THAT MACE HAS ACTUALLY
TAKEN OVER A NATIONAL GUARD
ARMORY HE COULD HAVE BEEN
BLUFFING SENSING ME ON A
WILD GOOSE CHASE!

STILL, THOSE GOONS OF HIS
WERE WEARING STANDARD
ARMY ISSUE GEAR, AND AN
ARMORY IS ONE PLACE
WHERE THEY COULD HIDE
IN PLAIN SIGHT



I ME... NO USE IN
PROLONGING THE SUSPENSE

MACE PROBABLY EXPECTS
ME TO ATTACK FROM THE
ROOFTOPS I THINK I CAN
TUT SURPRISE HIM AND
WALTZ IN THROUGH THE
FRONT DOOR



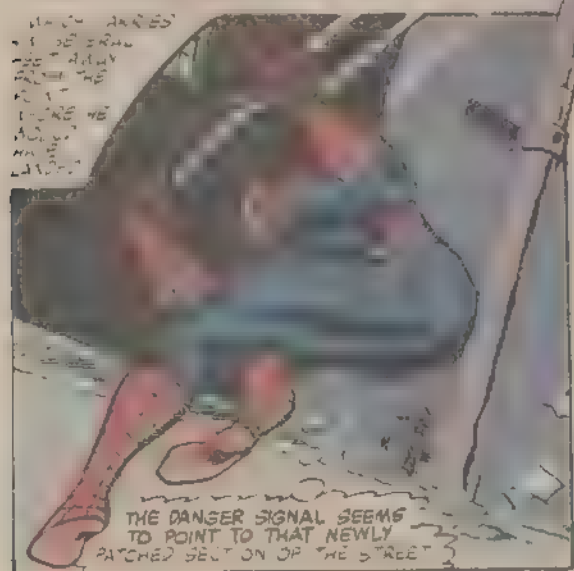
OH - AS FOR THE
A DPH BAY - LIT

WHOA
MY SPIDER
SENSE IS
GOING OFF
LIKE A FOUR-
ALARM FIRE



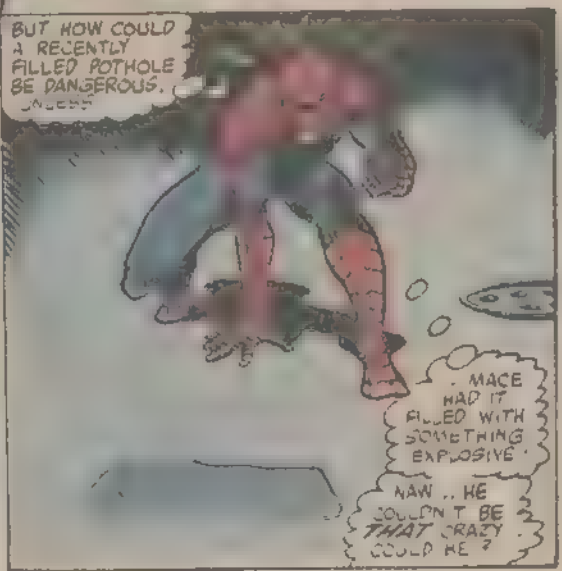
THERE'S SOME
BIG DANGER
LURKING RIGHT
ABOUT WHERE
I'M ABOUT TO
LAND!

UTILIZING HIS AMAZING ACROBATIC
PROWESS, SPIDER-MAN REFLEXIVELY
TWISTS HIS BODY ABOUT IN A
LIGHTNING-FAST SOMERSAULT--



WHEN MACE
WAS DEFEAT
HE HAD
THE
KILL
I THINK HE
MAY BE
MACE
WAS
KILLED

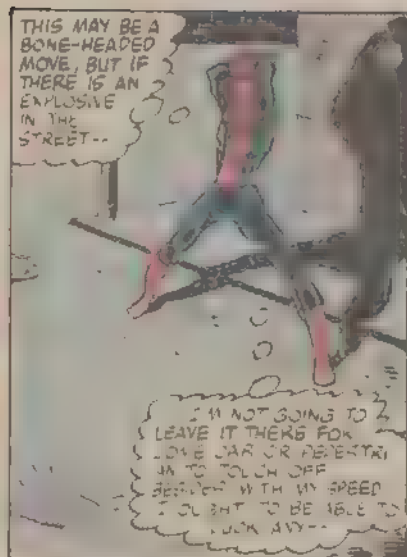
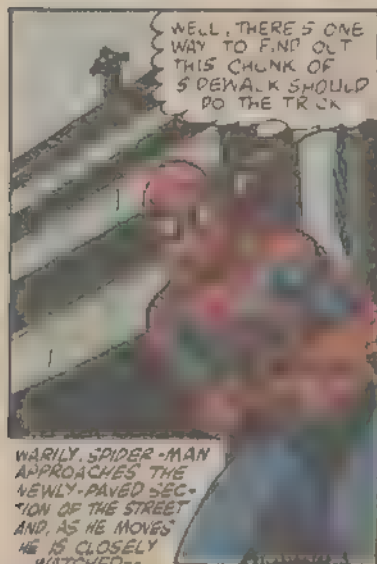
THE DANGER SIGNAL SEEMS
TO POINT TO THAT NEWLY
PATCHED SECT ON OP THE STREET

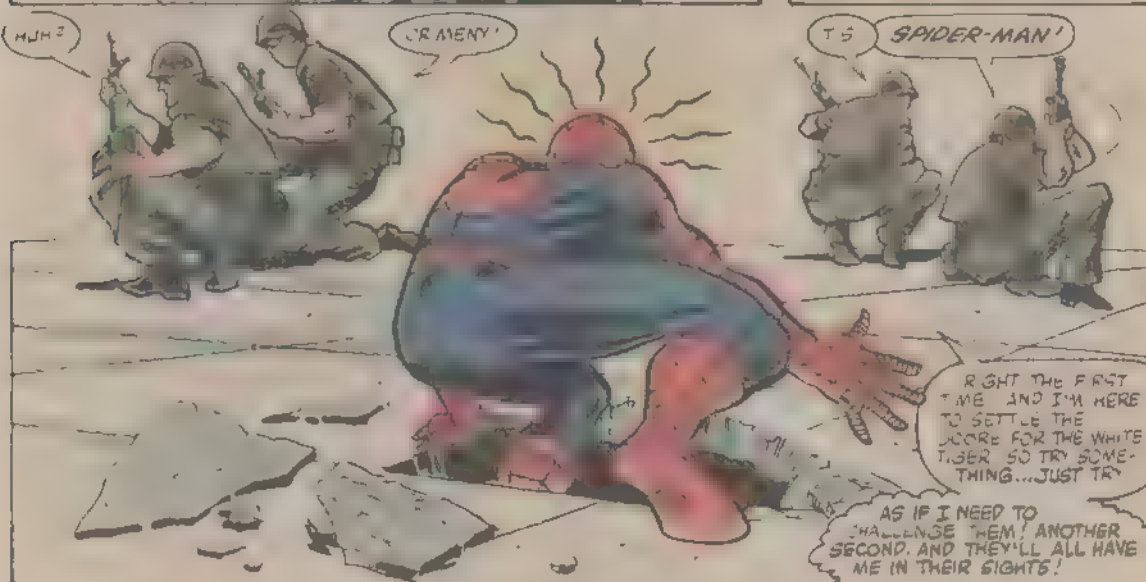


BUT HOW COULD
A RECENTLY
FILLED POTHOLE
BE DANGEROUS.

MACE
HAD IT
FILLED WITH
SOMETHING
EXPLOSIVE

NOW.. HE
COULDN'T BE
THAT CRAZY
COULD HE?



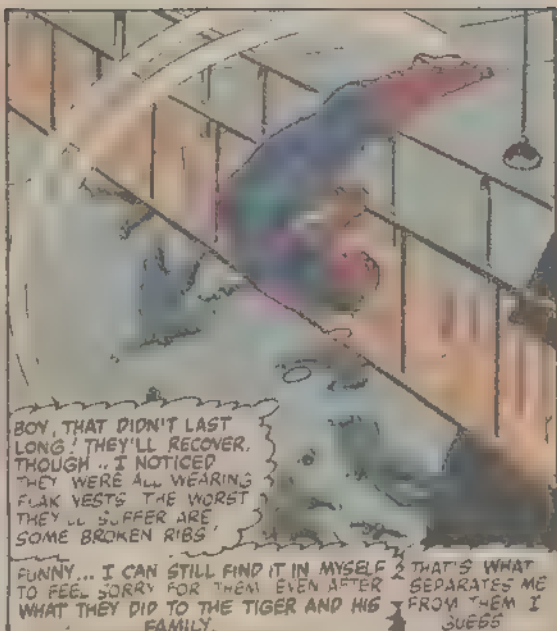




WITH A SINGLE BOUND
DUTY... UP TOWARDS
THE RAFTERS OF THE
CAVERNOUS ARMORY.

THEY'RE ALL
GONE...
THEY'RE ALL
GONE...
THEY'RE ALL
GONE...

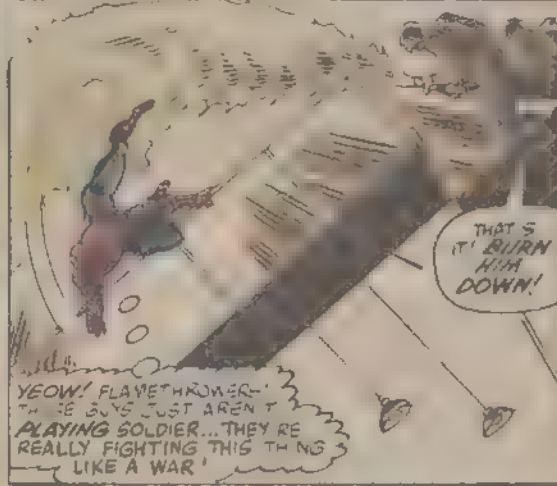
CEASE
FIRE!
CEASE!!



BOY, THAT DIDN'T LAST
LONG! THEY'LL RECOVER,
THOUGH... I NOTICED
THEY WERE ALL WEARING
FLAK VESTS THE WORST
THEY'LL SUFFER ARE
SOME BROKEN RIBS.

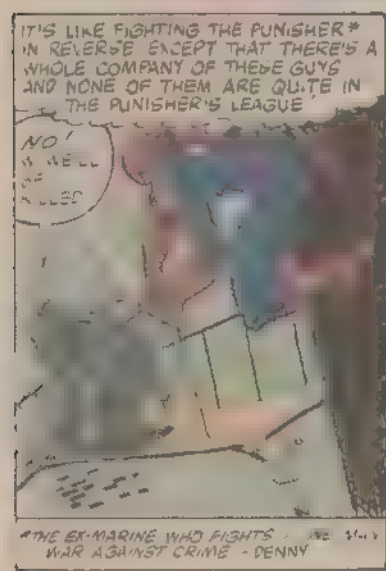
FUNNY... I CAN STILL FIND IT IN MYSELF
TO FEEL SORRY FOR THEM EVEN AFTER
WHAT THEY DID TO THE TIGER AND HIS
FAMILY.

THAT'S WHAT
SEPARATES ME
FROM THEM I
GUESS



YEOW! FLAYE THROWER...
THE GUYS JUST AREN'T
PLAYING SOLDIER... THEY'RE
REALLY FIGHTING THIS THING
LIKE A WAR.

THAT'S
IT! BURN
HIM
DOWN!



IT'S LIKE FIGHTING THE PUNISHER*
IN REVERSE EXCEPT THAT THERE'S A
WHOLE COMPANY OF THESE GUYS
AND NONE OF THEM ARE QUITE IN
THE PUNISHER'S LEAGUE

NO!
WELL
OF
COURSE!

*THE EX-MARINE WHO FIGHTS
WAR AGAINST CRIME - DENNY



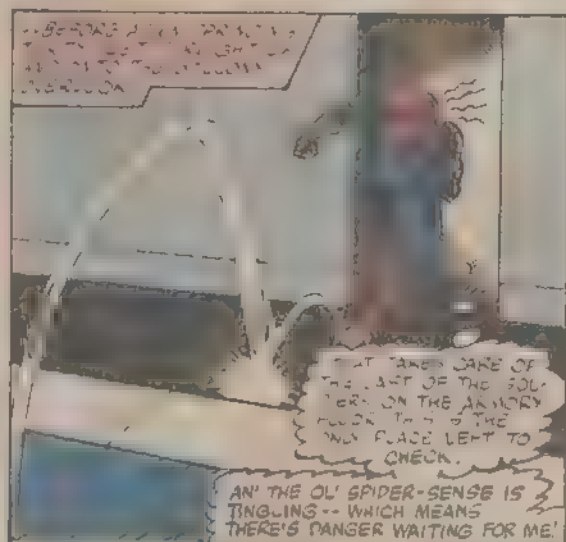
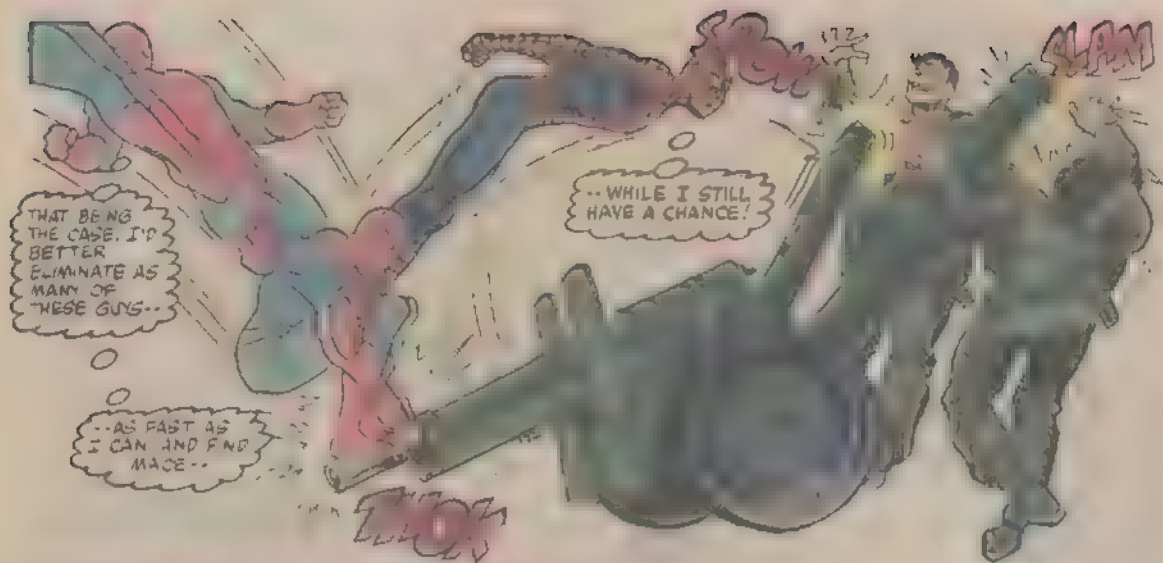
NOT QUITE
GUYS, BUT THE
FALL SHOULD
KNOW THE
WIND OUT OF
YOU

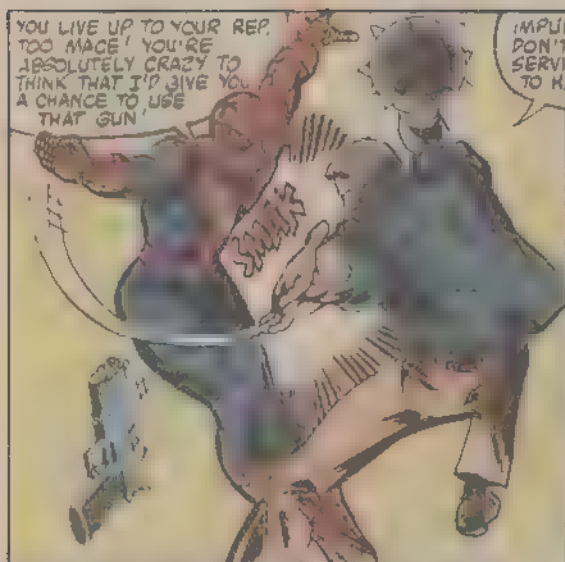


NOW WHAT?
NOWITZERS?

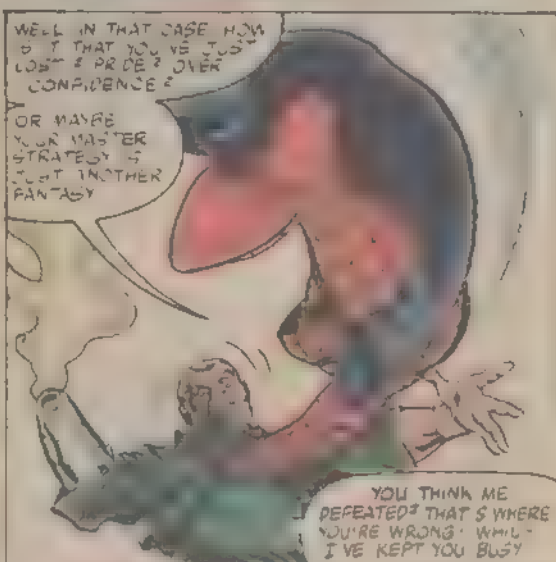
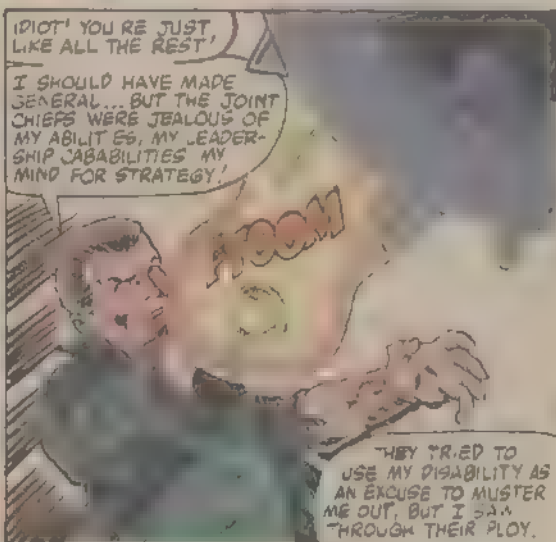
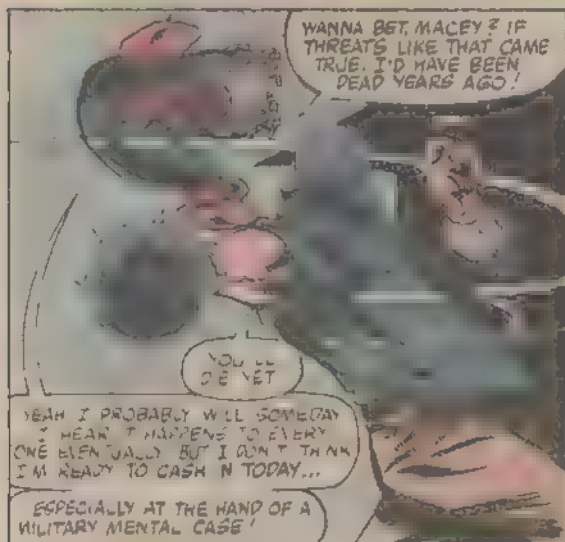
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
WHAT'RE THEY GOING TO
USE NEXT... TANKS?

WHAT
AM I
THINKING?
THIS IS AN
ARMORY...
THEY JUST
MIGHT
HAVE ONE





IMPUDENT FOOL! I
DON'T NEED MY
SERVICE REVOLVER
TO HANDLE YOU!





MINUTES STREAK BY, AS SIRENS PIERCE THE NIGHT AIR, SIGNALING THE ARRIVAL OF YET ANOTHER AMBULANCE AT BELLEVUE'S EMERGENCY ROOM...



AND AS THE BULLET-RIDDEN GIBBY MACE IS RUSHED DOWN THE HALL, PETER PARKER ONCE MORE EMERGES ON THE SCENE.



AND SO, AS ONE MAN IS FINALLY WHEELED OUT OF THE OPERATING ROOM, THE MAN WHO PUT HIM THERE IS WHEELED IN.

HEY, PARKER! IF YOU STILL WANT TO TALK, I'M WILLIN' NOW.



HOW'S HECTOR? IS HE GOING TO MAKE IT?



YEAH, HE WAS REAL LUCKY ... ALL THAT LEAD JUST MISSED THE VITAL ORGANS BY INCHES ... LESS IN SOME PLACES.

DO YA KNOW, THEY PULLED ABOUT 12 SLUGS OUTTA HIM! HE'S GOT MORE THAN A COUPLE OF DOCTORS HERE BELIEVIN' IN MIRACLES.

YEAH, HE'S GONNA LIVE, PARKER. I JUST HOPE THAT, AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM, HE CAN STILL FIND SOMETHIN' TO LIVE FOR!

EPILOGUE

ONE WEEK LATER HIS WOUNDS MIRACULOUSLY ALL BUT HEALED, HECTOR AYALA COMES TO A MAJOR DECISION... ONE WITNESSED ONLY BY HIS GIRL FRIEND HOLLY GILLIS, AND BY BLACKBYRD.



HECTOR, ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS?

I AM, HOLLY. I KNOW THE TIGER AMULETS SAVED MY LIFE--

--BUT THEY ALSO MADE ME WHAT I AM TODAY... HOMELESS... BEREFT OF FAMILY... AND A DANGER TO MY FRIENDS. THE AMULETS MADE ME THE WHITE TIGER, AND IN DOING SO, THEY RUINED MY LIFE.



I CANNOT STAND TO WEAR THEM ANY LONGER, EVEN IF THEIR REMOVAL BRINGS ME...



...PAIN!

AND AS HE EXPECTED, LIFTING THE MYSTIC JADE AMULETS FROM HIS THROAT CAUSES HIS BODY TO SPASM IN HORRIBLE BUT WRENCHING AGONY!



HECTOR, LET ME CALL YOU AN INTERN... GET YOU SOMETHING.

NO, HOLLY... NO DRUGS, I WOULD ONLY BE GIVING UP ONE DEPENDENCY FOR ANOTHER. IN A WAY, I HAVE BECOME ADDICTED TO THE AMULETS, AND TO BEAT THAT ADDICTION--



--THE WHITE TIGER MUST DIE! I MUST PURGE HIM FROM MY SOUL.

THE ONLY WAY I CAN DO THAT IS... ON MY OWN!

AND SO HOLLY AND THE BLACK-BYRD LOOK ON-- UNABLE TO HELP THEIR FRIEND BY ANY MEANS, SAVE THAT OF PRAYER.

"HUMAN TORCH" IN "BLOWN ABOUT"



THREE WEEKS LATER, AT THE PORT AUTHORITY BUS TERMINAL...

BLACKBYRD, MI AMIGO, I WILL MISS YOU.

SAME HERE, HECTOR, YOU SURE YOU'RE DOIN' THE RIGHT THING?

YES I AM. HOLLY AND I HAVE GIVEN THIS MUCH THOUGHT. THERE ARE JUST TOO MANY PEOPLE IN NEW YORK WHO REMEMBER WHAT I ONCE WAS.

HOLLY AND I ARE GOING FAR AWAY, TO SOME PLACE WHERE NO ONE HAS EVER HEARD OF THE WHITE TIGER... SOME PLACE WHERE HECTOR AYALA CAN LIVE AGAIN!

BUT BEFORE I GO... HERE THESE AMULETS ONCE BELONGED TO THE SONS OF THE TIGER. * PLEASE SEE TO IT THAT THEY GET THEM BACK... AND WARN THEM OF WHAT THE POWER WITHIN CAN DO!

I'LL BE SURE TO DO THAT, HECTOR! YOU CAN COUNT ON THAT!

GRACIAS, BLACKBYRD.

*SEE ALMOST ANY ISSUE OF DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU. --DENNY.

AND, AND AS THE BUS PULLS AWAY, HEADED FOR POINTS WEST...

I'LL BE DARNED! HE REALLY DID IT!

YEP SURE DID.

I WISH HIM AND HIS LADY LUCK. THEY'RE GOOD PEOPLE... THEY DESERVE A LITTLE HAPPINESS.

YEAH... WELL, SOME PEOPLE ARE BORN LUCKY. AN' SOME HAVE TO MAKE THEIR OWN LUCK. HECTOR'S ONE OF THE SECOND KIND, I GUESS. BUT I THINK HE'LL MANAGE.

AFTER ALL, HE'S ALREADY PROVEN THAT HE'S SMARTER THAN YOU ARE!

OH? HOW'S THAT?

HE'S LEARNED ENOUGH TO QUIT WHILE HE'S AHEAD!